

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of planning demand for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, comprising the steps of:  
providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics[[],];  
~~inputting the~~ receiving a selection of at least one product to be represented[[],];  
~~inputting the~~ receiving a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented[[],];  
~~inputting~~ receiving a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product[[],];  
loading data ~~to be represented~~ from the data storage system into a buffer[[],];  
performing a calculation on the ~~represented~~ data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics[[],];  
modelling a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter[[],]; and  
using the hierarchy ~~for the administration of~~ to administer the buffered data.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the administration of the buffered data includes the step of:

performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the ~~represented~~ data through the data storage system, ~~where~~ wherein the calculation differs from that defined by the planning parameter[[,]].

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~including the step of~~ further comprising:

preparing storing the recalculated ~~represented~~ data for saving in the data storage system.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 3, ~~including the step of~~ further comprising:

loading the recalculated ~~represented~~ data into the data storage system.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the calculation is a disaggregation calculation.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the recalculation is a disaggregation or an aggregation calculation.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the data storage system is an object oriented data base.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the modelling step includes modelling the hierarchy with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the calculating step is carried out by the data storage system.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the calculating and recalculating steps calculate the incidence of each product dependent characteristic and each product independent characteristic in accordance with the selected product. ~~[[.]]~~

11. (Currently Amended) A demand planner apparatus for planning demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain, wherein said demand planner is operatively associated with a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics, and wherein said demand planner is operatively associated with a user interface for receiving input of the selection of at least one product to be represented, input of the selection of a particular characteristic to be represented, and input of a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product, said demand planner apparatus comprising:

a storage medium ~~having recorded therein~~ storing processor readable code ~~processable~~ to plan demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain, said code comprising:

data loading code ~~processable-load data to be~~ to load data represented from the data storage system into a buffer,

calculation performing code ~~processable~~ to perform a calculation on the ~~represented~~ data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics, and

hierarchy modelling code ~~processable~~ to model a hierarchy of the ~~represented~~ data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter, wherein the hierarchy is used to administer ~~using code-processable to use the hierarchy for the administration of~~ the buffered data.

12. (Currently Amended)      [[A]] The demand planner apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~said using code~~ administering the buffered data includes ~~propagating recalculation performing code-processable to perform~~ performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the ~~represented~~ data through the data storage system, where the calculation differs from that defined by the planning parameter[[.]].

13 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A computer-readable medium storing program instructions executable by a processor to perform a method of planning demand for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics;

receiving a selection of at least one product to be represented;

receiving a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented;

receiving a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product;

loading data from the data storage system into a buffer;

performing a calculation on the data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics;

modeling a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter; and

using the hierarchy to administer the buffered data.